

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising an amount of an isolated monoclonal antibody effective to ~~prevent~~ provide protection against staphylococcal infection in neonates and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the antibody specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of Lipoteichoic acid (LTA) of *Staphylococcus* and is of the IgG isotype, wherein the antibody binds to and enhances opsonization of multiple serotypes of *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, coagulase negative staphylococci, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus mutans* by phagocytic cells with or without complement as compared to an appropriate control in an in vitro opsonization assay, wherein the antibody binds the same epitope to which MAB 96-110 antibody binds, and wherein the MAB 96-110 antibody is produced by the hybridoma deposited at ATCC Accession No HB-12368.

62. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 61, wherein the opsonization assay is performed in the presence of complement, phagocytic cells, or both.

63. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 62, wherein the complement or cells or both are human in origin.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) The composition of claims 62, wherein the phagocytic cells comprise macrophages, monocytes, neutrophils, or combinations thereof.

66. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 62, wherein opsonization is measured by determining opsonophagocytic bactericidal activity.

67-76. (Cancelled)

77. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of LTA of *Staphylococcus*, or antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the heavy and light chain variable regions of monoclonal antibody 96-110 set forth as SEQ ID NO:87 and SEQ ID NO:89.

78. (Cancelled)

79. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 61 or 77, wherein the antibody comprises a portion of a human antibody sequence.

80. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 79, wherein the portion of human antibody sequence comprises an Fc region.

81. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 61 or 77, wherein the antibody specifically binds LTA exposed on the surface of the cell wall of *Staphylococcus* bacteria.

82-85. (Cancelled)

86. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 61 or 77, wherein the antibody binds to serotype 5, serotype 8, or both serotype 5 and serotype 8 of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

87-90. (Cancelled)

91. (Previously Presented) The composition of claims 61 or 77, wherein the antibody reduces LTA-mediated inflammation, LTA-mediated cytokine production, or combination thereof.

92. (Cancelled)

93. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 77, wherein the antibody is an Fab, Fab', F(ab')₂, or sFv fragment of an antibody.

94. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 61 or 77, further comprising at least one additional monoclonal antibody having specificity for LTA.

95. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an antibody of claim 77, for use in a human neonate.

96. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide encoding an antibody, or fragment thereof, of claim 61 or 77.

97. (Withdrawn) The polynucleotide of claim 96, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the variable region of the antibody, or fragment thereof, has at least 70% identity to the polynucleotide set forth in FIG. 12.

98. (Withdrawn) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 96.

99. (Withdrawn) A cell comprising the polynucleotide of claim 96 or the vector of claim 98.

100. (Withdrawn) An antibody, or fragment thereof, produced by a cell comprising a polynucleotide or vector comprising a polypeptide encoding an antibody of claim 61 or 77.

101. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 61, wherein the antibody is of the IgG1 isotype.

102-103. (Cancelled)

104. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of LTA of *Staphylococcus*, or antigen binding fragment thereof,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises the heavy chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:87.

105. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of LTA of *Staphylococcus*, or antigen binding fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises the light chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:89.

106. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody of claim 61, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises a heavy chain comprising the heavy chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the monoclonal antibody 96-110 and a variable region having 80% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:87.

107. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 106, wherein the variable region has 85% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:87.

108. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 106, wherein the variable region has 90% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:87.

109. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 106, wherein the variable region has 95% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:87.

110. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody of claim 61, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises a light chain comprising the light chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the monoclonal antibody 96-110 and a variable region having 80% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:89.

111. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 110, wherein the variable region has 85% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:89.

112. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 110, wherein the variable region has 90% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:89.

113. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 110, wherein the variable region has 95% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:89.

114. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody of claim 61, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises a heavy chain comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the monoclonal antibody 96-110 heavy chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:87 and having at least 70% amino acid identity with the monoclonal antibody 96-110 heavy chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:87.

115. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody of claim 61, wherein the monoclonal antibody comprises a light chain comprising the complementarity determining regions (CDRs) of the monoclonal antibody 96-110 light chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:89 and having at least 70% amino acid identity with the monoclonal antibody 96-110 light chain variable region set forth as SEQ ID NO:89.

116. (New) A composition comprising an isolated anti-LTA monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the anti-LTA monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment is produced by a process comprising

(a) providing a population of anti-LTA monoclonal antibodies or antigen binding fragments thereof; and

(b) selecting an anti-LTA monoclonal antibody or antigen binding fragment that

(i) specifically binds to poly-glycerol phosphate of LTA of *Staphylococcus*,

(ii) binds to and enhances opsonization of multiple serotypes of *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, coagulase negative staphylococci, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus mutans* by phagocytic cells with or without complement as compared to an appropriate control in an *in vitro* opsonization assay, and

(iii) binds to the same epitope to which MAB 96-110 antibody binds, wherein the MAB 96-110 antibody is produced by the hybridoma deposited at ATCC Accession No. HB-12368.